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CIA Abuses Past, Bush Says at KU

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LAWRENCE, Kan. — A number of incidents involving the Central Intelligence Agency were "flat wrong," CIA director George Bush conceded Monday. But he pleaded with Americans not to dwell on excesses of the past.

Corrective action has been taken, Bush said, to guard against repetition of past CIA covert actions that startled Americans, but he stressed that certain intelligence activity is essential and will continue.

Bush came here direct from an appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee, which released its long-awaited investigative report on U.S. intelligence gathering activity a few hours before he spoke.

The CIA director was on the University of Kansas campus to deliver another in a series of J.A. Vickers Sr. Memorial Lectures.

WHILE HE SPOKE inside the university theater, a group of about 40 primarily foreign students protested his appearance by marching in a circle in front of Murphy Hall, waving banners and placards and shouting anti-CIA remarks.

Bush avoided the demonstration by entering through a side door. But he said he couldn't help but notice "the reception committee outside the hall."

In pleading with Americans to understand the need for an international

spying operation, Bush said, "As we look around the world let us not be senselessly pragmatic."

He made the comment in answering a student's question about U.S. support of dictatorships in various countries.

HE NOTED CRITICISM of U.S. support for the South Korean government but said that government should be compared with the far more repressive government of North Korea.

And as he termed Cambodia the most repressive regime, he asked, "Where is the voice coming out of a single university?"

That comment evoked the only applause he received throughout his talk and a subsequent question-and-answer period.

In reply to a question about the congressional oversight recommended by the Senate committee, Bush said the CIA supports it. He added that the CIA reports "every penny to congressional oversight; budget figures are reported to the people's elected representatives — we are doing it."

THE DIRECTOR said it was his plan to give Congressmen as much information as it can digest. But that, he cautioned, is not the same as giving all this information to the public.

Sen. Frank Church, chairman of the Senate committee, did not say that the United States should eliminate all covert activity, Bush said. He recognized the need to maintain a covert capability but said it should be used very carefully.

Americans should understand that there is a threat from outside its borders today, Bush said in his prepared remarks. They also should understand that there are a number of activities carried on by the CIA that are good and should be continued.

AMONG THESE, he said, are guarding against nuclear proliferation, predicting political changes in foreign countries, protecting against international terrorism, against the international flow of drugs and attempting to provide an early warning against the threat of war.

Bush said there are plenty of reasons to support the agency's mission in the future. It is his intention, he said, to have an agency that is second to none in the collection and analysis of intelligence.